



February 22, 2011

Members of the House Committee on Energy & Technology:

I am writing to communicate our support for **House Bills 4265 & 4266**, legislation to exempt facilities that qualify as "Landfill Energy Production Facilities" from the yard waste ban. Increased landfill gas energy production would harness existing resources for a cost-effective boost to the state's overall energy mix. This legislation would provide communities and individuals the choice for how they can best to manage their waste pickup and removal.

The Detroit Regional Chamber is made up of over 20,000 members and affiliates, who range in size from sole proprietors to fortune 500 companies and employ over ¾ million people across a ten county region of Metro Detroit. Our members want reliable, affordable, local sources of energy. Access to reliable and affordable energy has a big impact on their bottom line and will help shape our ability to achieve future economic success in the region and across Michigan.

House Bills 4265 & 4266 would open the door for existing facilities to produce 41% more electricity from landfill gas. In fact, a study by Public Sector Consultants showed that further development at other facilities in Michigan could result in a combined output of 300 MW, which is comparable to a medium sized coal power generation facility. The increased methane capture from yard waste decomposition can assist bringing Michigan in line with our Renewable Portfolio Standard goals in a more cost effective fashion, providing more options at a time when we must limit added costs to business.

In addition to the economic benefits, there are multiple environmental benefits from this legislation. In order to meet the qualifications in the bill, a facility must demonstrate a 70% capture rate for landfill gas emissions, rather than no reported collection efficiency for other facilities. In another example, when GM partnered with Waste Management to use landfill gas from the Eagle Valley landfill to power a portion of the Orion Assembly plant, the facility reduced its coal consumption by 50%.

We ask that you vote **Yes** on **House Bills 4265 & 4266** to capitalize on the convergence of alternative energy technology and existing resources. In this instance, a new look at how we manage waste can lead to both environmental and economic benefits by increasing our capacity to generate renewable energy in Michigan that is both reliable and affordable.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian A. Kandler".

Brian A. Kandler
Director, Government Relations
Detroit Regional Chamber